coalfields in a comprehensive manner, a Committee has been constituted on 19.12.1996 with Secretary (Coal) as the Chairman and representatives of Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal and Bihar, Director General Mines Safety (DGMS), Coal India Limited (CIL), Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) as members. The Committee held three meetings—one in Delhi, second in Jharia Coalfield and the third in Raniganj Coalfields on 6.2.1997, 7/8.3.1997 and 28/29.4.1997 respectively. The Committee is expected to submit its report by June, 1997.

Exploration of coal and lignite

3030. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of coal in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the measures proposed to step up exploration of coal and lignite to reduce the gap between demand and supply; and

(c) the steps taken to attract substantial private investment in coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Demand of coal for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 as assessed by the Planning Commission and the actual offtake of coal for these two years are as under:

(Million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Offtake
1995-96	298.80	271.06
1996-97	325.00	286.16 (Prov.)

(b) The Hon'ble Member presumably means "exploitation of coal" For augmenting coal production so as to reduce the gap between demand and supply, following steps have been taken:—

(i) Opening up of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

(ii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured to enable it to raise from the capital market additional financial resources which are required to add to new coal production capacity.

(iii) Co-ordination on continuous basis with the Railways is maintained to remove transportation bottlenecks in such coalfields areas which have potential for enchanced production.

(iv) Modification of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries are being taken up to increase the availability of washed coking coal.

(c) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for their own use. Further the Government have, subject to legislative changes, decided to offer new coal blocks, without the restrictions on coal mining for captive consumption only as well as exploration activities to the Indian Companies including public sector companies.

कोयले के अवैध खनन की गतिविधियां

3031. **श्री राम गोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईशदत्त यादव:

क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि देश में कोयले के अवैध रूप से खनन की गतिविधियां बड़े पैमाने पर चल रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये गतिविधियां कितने वर्षों से चल रही हैं और इस अवधि में अवैध रूप से कितने मूल्य के और कितनी मात्रा में कोयले का खनन किया गया;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने अवैध रूप से कोयला खनन की गतिविधियों पर पूर्ण पाबंदी लगाने हेतु कोई कदम उठाए हैं और ऐसी गतिविधियों में लिप्त व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही की है; और

(घ) की गई कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं तथा इस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या प्रस्ताव किया है?

कोयले मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कांति सिंह): (क) ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० (ई०को०लि०) भारत कोकिंग कोलफील्ड्स लि० (भा०को०को०लि०) तथा सेंट्रल कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कुछ खानों में अवैध रूप से कोयले के उत्खनन की छुटपुट घटनाएं हो रही हैं।